

(Appendix E)

Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Programs after a RIF

United States Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

Fact Sheet No. ETA 90-15
Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act (EDWAA)

The Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act (EDWAA) replaces Title III of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). It is part of a comprehensive approach to assisting dislocated workers that also includes provisions of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act and the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program.

Eligibility: Dislocated workers whose employment loss means they are unlikely to return to their previous industries or occupations are eligible for assistance under EDWAA. This includes workers who lose their jobs because of plant closings or mass layoffs; long-term unemployed persons with limited local opportunities for jobs in their fields; and farmers, ranchers and other self-employed persons who become jobless due to general economic conditions or natural disasters. Under certain circumstances, displaced homemakers may also be eligible for EDWAA assistance.

Service Structure: EDWAA has a local service-delivery system through which substate areas and grantees are designated for the purpose of providing assistance to dislocated workers under Title III of JTPA. The Governor of each State is responsible for overall administration and management of the program, including the establishment of systems to respond rapidly to major worker dislocations.

Services Provided: EDWAA emphasizes a comprehensive, timely array of retraining and re-employment services, tailored to workers' individual needs, including long-term job preparation. Major activities and services under EDWAA include:

Rapid Response. This is the primary responsibility of the State's Dislocated Worker Unit (DWU), which must be alerted to the plant closings and mass layoffs covered under WARN. When the DWU obtains information about major dislocations, it responds with on-site services to assist workers facing job losses. The DWU may also help to set up a labor-management committee at the worksite (and/or assist in efforts to avoid job losses).

Retraining Services. These include classroom, occupational skills and/or on-the-job training. Basic and remedial education, entrepreneurial training and instruction in literacy or English-as-a-second-language may be provided.

Needs Related Payments. If eligible for EDWAA assistance, dislocated workers who have exhausted their unemployment insurance (UI) may receive needs-related payments to help them complete training. Payments may not exceed the individual's UI benefits or the poverty level, whichever is higher.

To qualify, participants must be enrolled in training by the end of the 13th week of their initial UI benefit period (or by the end of the eighth week after being informed that a supposed short-term layoff will exceed six months). An eligible worker who does not qualify for UI must be participating in a training or education program in order to receive needs-related payments.

Certificates of Continuing Eligibility. Substate grantees may issue these certificates to EDWAA-eligible workers for use in two distinct ways: (1) to defer the start of retraining, or (2) to permit workers to seek out and obtain their own retraining. The alternative training must be approved by the substate grantee.

Reemployment Services. These include: outreach and intake; development of individual readjustment plans; labor market information; and relocation assistance and pre-dislocation readjustment programs.

For Further Information: Contact the local government agency in your area that administers the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), your nearest State Job Service office, or any of the U. S. Department of Labor's 10 Regional Employment and Training Administration (ETA) offices in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Kansas City (MO), Denver, San Francisco and Seattle.

Information about EDWAA is also available from the Office of Employment and Training Programs, Employment and Training Administration, Washington, D.C. 20210 (Phone 202-535-0577. This is not a toll-free number.)

This is one of a series of fact sheets highlighting U.S. Department of Labor Programs. It is intended as a general description only and does not carry the force of legal opinion.

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